



RSCM Summer School, Auckland 9th – 16th January
Andrew Lumsden directing the full choir
in Holy Trinity Cathedral

Chairwoman's comments

Dear RSCM family,

2018 has begun with a rush of RSCM activity in the form of the Summer School in Auckland and our adventure to Waihi, on a wet and steamy Sunday afternoon in February. Branch members have written excellent accounts of both these events inside, and Carol Chetwynd reports on the early 21st century resurgence of interest in Evensong, at least in the Waikato-BoP region -- long may it continue. Even though it still (mostly) feels like summer, we are deep into Lent already, with Easter music to be prepared and Alleluias to be polished up. That also means the AGM is in sight -- please put it in your diary, and do come early for the sing-along beforehand, this year to include chorales from the Passions. Ray has signalled our two main events nice and early too. We have decided to try something a bit different instead of a Music Sunday Evensong . It could be a lot of fun if we can get a good turn out. All best wishes for your Passiontide and Holy Week music, See you at the AGM!



With all good wishes,

Rachael

Branch activities in 2018

This year's **Annual General Meeting** will be held at St Andrew's Church, Cambridge on **Sunday**, the 6th May at 2.00p.m. As we have done over the last few years, we propose to hold a short 'workshop' before the actual meeting and are planning a 'sing-along' session with one or two choruses/chorales from oratorios. This is not preparation for a concert, as at the Festival, but simply branch members getting together to enjoy singing something as a group for a while.

It looks as if this year **Music Sunday** will be **Music Saturday**, 9th June; this is subject to confirmation nearer the time. In recent years we have celebrated music in worship by singing Evensong together, but this year we are planning to do so by singing Christmas music in our antipodean winter. The idea is that participating choirs could be prepared to present some Christmas anthems or carol settings, and the massed choir plus congregation would join in singing some of the more well-known Christmas music.

Choral Festival: the 28th September 2018 is the first anniversary of the death of Peter Godfrey, who made a colossal contribution to choral music in New Zealand. We are planning to mark this by focussing on his music at our annual Choral Festival.

More details (exact date, venue, programme, etc.) nearer that date, but please bear this plan in mind when developing your schedule of events for the year.

Time for Evensong?

Cast your minds back to the early sixties (there are a few of us around who can still do this!). Every Sunday we would attend a communion service in the morning and an evensong in the evening. Most of the time there would be a reasonable congregation at the morning service but, sadly, hardly anybody attended evensong. The priest, organist, sidesman and possibly one other would be usual! This led, inevitably, to the demise of evensong except maybe for the cathedrals. Fast forward fifty years and evensong is making a comeback! Albeit a festal evensong but nevertheless a service, in the late afternoon, at which both choir and congregation have an entertaining time.

Instrumental in making this happen is the RSCM and enlightened vicars who appreciate the service and are anxious to promote its reprise. One such evensong took place on 11th February at St. John's Church, Waihi at the invitation of the Rev. Peter Minson. A choir of over thirty singers, from

Tauranga,
Matamata,
Morrinsville,
Cambridge
and
Hamilton,
entranced a
congregation
of over fifty
with music



from the late sixteen hundreds to the present day. Many were the enthusiastic comments at the conclusion of the service, including “why don’t we have more evensongs?” The answer to that comment lies with each individual parish of course, but I have heard of ‘flying choirs’ who flit from parish to parish and sing evensong to the delight of many. The Waikato/Taranaki diocese is quite large, but everything must start somewhere!

No choir can perform well without the encouragement and expertise of its musical direction. We are very lucky to have Dr. Rachael Griffiths-Hughes, Anne Cleaver and David Brookes number among those people who can fulfil the roles of conductor and accompanist. Their enthusiasm and knowledge help make both rehearsals and services enjoyable and uplifting occasions. So too does the food which on this occasion we sampled twice! After the rehearsal and after the service! Many thanks to the personnel involved. Even though the weather was atrocious and a fire siren interrupted proceedings, it was very gratifying to see so many people turn out for what may well be a revival of evensong! Thanks also, to Peter Minson, for an entertaining sermon on the theme of, you guessed it, ‘maybe evensong is making a comeback?’ Like Christchurch Cathedral if we want to see a new building we just have to get in there and build it! Does the same apply to more evensongs? As Peter’s dentist remarked, “You only need to floss the teeth you want to keep!” Interpret that as you wish!
Carol Chetwynd

Evensong seem to be catching on again all over the place, at least all over our region! And very welcome this is too. There is a wealth of wonderful music for this service from Tudor times right up to the present.

St Andrew's Cambridge has started a series, which began on 4th March and extends weekly till Palm Sunday (25th March), each Sunday at 5.00p.m Merv Hunt writes, 'We are keen for everyone to participate so the music will be straightforward and easy to learn with something a little special on Palm Sunday.'

All Saints', Matamata, invites any other choristers to join their choir on 18th March (Passion Sunday) for Choral Evensong. Rehearsal 3pm. Service 4.30pm followed by refreshments.

For more details about these services, get in touch with Merv Hunt and David Brookes (contacts at the end of this newsletter).

And on the same vein, St Peter's Cathedral, Hamilton celebrates choral evensong on the fourth Sunday of every month from February to October at 6.00p.m. during Daylight Saving, and otherwise at 5.00p.m.

Royal School of Church Music Australasian Summer School 9th – 16th January 2018

This year the RSCM Summer School was held at Dilworth School, Auckland where there were 75 people attending, two thirds of whom had come from Australia. We were treated to a week of choral singing, recitals and presentations and took part in two services and a concert at St Matthew-in-the-City. The Director of the choir was Andrew Lumsden, Organist and Master of the Choristers at Winchester Cathedral, U.K. Each

day began with morning worship and ended with evening worship.

A special feature of the week was marking the 60th anniversary of the death of Ralph Vaughan Williams. We sang some of his choral music and had two superb presentations - one from Indra Hughes on Vaughan Williams, the Man and his Music - and another from Australian scholar, Warren Bourne, who spoke about how VW collected and arranged many English folk songs and carols making them more widely known.

While many were visiting the Maritime Museum, several of us, led by Neil Shroff, enjoyed a visit to two historic churches. St. Mark's, Remuera and St. Andrew's, Epsom are among the oldest churches in New Zealand. Both are beautiful wooden churches founded by Bishop Selwyn in the early 19th century and are renowned for their architectural quality.

Having served as Musical Director in both churches, Neil was able to talk about the history of the buildings and organs, and of course some of the personalities involved. Both parishes have vibrant worshipping Anglican communities with a long musical history, fully active choirs, fine organs and highly



respected Music Directors. Brian Millar directs at St. Mark's and Neil at St. Andrew's.

On Saturday evening Andrew Lumsden gave a recital on the new organ in Holy Trinity Cathedral, Parnell.

This was a highlight of the week - a magnificent instrument performed by a superb musician. Sunday morning the choir took part in a service at Mt Albert Methodist church (picture) and in the afternoon a service at the cathedral. Much of the final

day was spent rehearsing for an early evening concert at St Matthew-in-the-City. This was followed by a gala dinner in the Selwyn Library and in the morning we farewelled our new friends after a stimulating week.

Roz Robinson, Merv Hunt

Matamata Christmas Choir 2017 Concerts an enormous success.

Matamata Christmas Choir celebrated Christmas again with its 57th series of four concerts in November/December 2017. Feedback from audiences was very positive, with some stating this series was the best-ever, and judging by the size and enthusiasm of the audiences, which concluded with over 300 people for the concluding Sunday afternoon concert, this was proof of such.

The choir of fifty choristers, conducted by Clare Hitchcock and David Brookes produced strong singing in unison and clear harmonies in the arrangement of ten carols, and led the audiences in another six well-known carols.

Soloists included Jeri Rose, (who also provided a wonderful soprano solo for 'The Holy City') Jenny Landman and Sue Harper, and the fine rendition of 'We three kings' by Ben Bartelink, Wayne Peterson and Brian Swney, dressed in appropriate eastern clothing.



St Joseph's School choir sang a bracket of three songs to the delight of everybody, and presented with excellent singing,

action, and enthusiasm. They were conducted by their Principal-Yvonne Marshall.

Readings of a secular form were read by Dolly Varden-Chambers, Joan Townsend, Noel Hull, and four students from Firth Primary School: Kyra Moana, Hayley-Ann Pawson, Lily Burgess-Munro and Simone Woolliams.

In conclusion, the programme presented this year proved to be the right mix of music in the selection of carols for the choir and audience; the excellent soloists and guest choir; and the readings, each with a different message, present by adults and children.

David Brookes.
President
Matamata Christmas Choir.

Messiah

St Matthew's Church Morrinsville.
Pakuranga Choral Society presents *Messiah*, G.F.Handel
Conductor: David Hamilton.
Organist: Michael Bell.
Saturday 5th May. Time/admission TBA.

Choir profiles

In the last edition, I mentioned that I'd like to run a series of short articles on our affiliated choirs. None has arrived for this issue, but I'm expecting one for the July edition.

Cantata Vespers at St Peter's Cathedral

17th March: *Wer ist, der dort von Edom kömmt* by G. P. Telemann. Featuring Koli Jayatunge (tenor) and Kathryn Orbell (flute).
21st April: *In Jesu hab ich Trost und Frieden* by J. C. Graupner
19th May (Pentecost) *Gott der Hoffnung erfülle euch* attr. J. S. Bach (possibly by Telemann)
Details for June and July are not available yet, but I'll circulate them when I have them.

Cantata vespers services all occur at 5.00p.m. at St Peter's Cathedral on the third Saturday of the month from February to October. Since they are religious services, there is no admission charge, but there is a retiring collection towards the organ fund.

*Catholic Parish of New Plymouth
Taranaki Cathedral Church of St Mary*

✠ 2018 Music Programme ✠

St Joseph's Recital Series
First Tuesday of the Month @ 1.00pm
6 February | 6 March | 3 April
1 May | 5 June | 3 July | 7 August
4 September | 2 October | 6 November
Gold coin donation followed by Refreshments

Cathedral Recital Series
Third Thursday of the Month @ 12.15pm
15 February | 15 March | 19 April
17 May | 21 June | 19 July | 16 August
20 September | 18 October | 15 November
Gold coin donation followed by Refreshments

Hymn Lecture Series
Cathedral | Wednesdays @ 11.30am
6 June | *The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended*
1 August | *My song is love unknown*
3 October | *All my hope on God is founded*
5 December | *O little town of Bethlehem*
Gold coin donation

Christmas Organ Recitals
St Joseph's Catholic Church
Thursday 20 December @ 1.00pm
Taranaki Cathedral Church of St Mary
Saturday 22 December @ 2.00pm
Gold coin donation

Christopher J. Luke
Director of Music to Taranaki Community & Cathedral
An initiative of the Music Innovation Trust of Taranaki

Holy Week and Easter Services and Events

St Peter's Cathedral, Hamilton:

Maundy Thursday 8.00p.m. Memorial of the Last Supper.

Good Friday 8.00p.m. Tenebrae.

Easter Eve 8.00p.m. Easter Vigil, Renewal of Baptismal Vows, first Eucharist of Easter.

Easter Day 9.45p.m. Choral Eucharist.

Taranaki Interim Cathedral

Thursday 29th March - 7.30p.m. Maundy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper. Music by Mozart & Plainsong

Friday 30th March - 12.00p.m. Good Friday - "Last Three Hours" Liturgy. Music by J.S. Bach, Crüger, Goss, Hilton, Ouseley, Mozart & Plainsong

Sunday 1st April - 10.00a.m. Easter Day Choral Eucharist. Music by Harris & Guilmant

Tuesday 3rd April - 1.00p.m. Lunchtime Organ Recital at St Joseph's Catholic Church, New Plymouth. Music by Archer, Bach, Guilmant, Nixon & Rawsthorne.

Cathedral of St John the Evangelist, Napier:

Palm Sunday 25th March 10.00a.m. Choral Eucharist with readings and symbols telling the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday through the events of Holy Week to Good Friday.

Maundy Thursday 29th March 7.00p.m. Liturgy of the Last Supper with Foot-washing.

Good Friday 30th March 12 noon – 3p.m. The Great Three Hour Service, with the Cathedral Choir presenting Stainer's "*The Crucifixion: A Meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer*" at 1.00p.m.

Holy Saturday 31st March 7.00p.m. Easter Eve Eucharist and Vigil

Easter Day 1st April 10.00a.m. Choral Eucharist with the music of Haydn's *Missa Brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo* (*Little*

Organ Mass) with the Cathedral Choir, organ and string ensemble.

15th April 2.30p.m. Dr Indra Hughes - Organ Recital.

For your diaries

5th May 2018: *Messiah* St Matthew's Church, Morrinsville. (see above)

6th May 2018: Branch AGM at St Andrew's Cambridge, 2.00p.m. (see above)

Mid to late June: Music Sunday, featuring Christmas music (see above)

Late September/Early October: RSCM Waikato Choral Festival focussing on the music of Peter Godfrey.

Editor's column

Heartiest thanks to contributors, David Brookes, Merv Hunt, Roz Robinson, Chris Luke, and Carol and Vaughan Chetwynd. I'm looking forward to hearing from the directors of affiliated choirs so that a sequence of choir profiles can be continued in successive issues of *Notes*. Your committee is always keen to hear of ideas to help promote church music in our region, for instance, suggestions of works to learn together for the Choral Festival, other ways of promoting and celebrating Music Sunday, possible topics for a short workshop at the AGM.

Your committee was really grateful for the invitation from Waihi parish to sing evensong there (see Carol Chetwynd's report above). The role of RSCM is to support music in worship, and this was a great opportunity for the branch to do just that!

Deadline for material for the next issue: 30th June 2018

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